

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 66

Introduced by Assembly Members Pavley
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, Cox, and Maze)
(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)

March 19, 2003

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 66—Relative to the high school exit examination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 66, as introduced, Pavley. High school exit examination.

This measure would urge the State Board of Education to delay the high school exit examination until issues are resolved regarding appropriate testing methods for pupils with disabilities. The measure would also encourage the State Department of Education to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, guidelines regarding the method and content of alternate assessments to the high school exit examination for pupils with disabilities who cannot participate in the examination and for whom accommodations or modifications are not appropriate.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Commencing with the 2003–04 school year, each
2 pupil completing grade 12 will be required under existing law to
3 successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition
4 of receiving a diploma of graduation or as a condition of
5 graduation from high school; and
6 WHEREAS, On or before August 1, 2003, the State Board of
7 Education may under existing law delay the date upon which each

1 pupil completing grade 12 is required to successfully pass the high
2 school exit examination if, in reviewing the report of a certain
3 independent study, the State Board of Education determines that
4 the test development process or the implementation of
5 standards-based instruction does not meet the required standards
6 for a test of this nature; and

7 WHEREAS, The failure rate of pupils with disabilities in the
8 most recent administration of the high school exit examination was
9 87 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, While it is recognized that these pupils will have
11 additional opportunities to pass the examination, the prospect of
12 only 13 percent of pupils with disabilities meeting standards for a
13 high school diploma is unacceptable; and

14 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding specialized reading instruction
15 and test preparation classes, the vast majority of pupils with
16 learning disabilities will still have their processing problems that
17 originally qualified them for special education; and

18 WHEREAS, Federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities
19 Education Act (IDEA), generally requires that pupils with
20 disabilities be included in general state and districtwide
21 assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations if
22 necessary; and

23 WHEREAS, The significant language delays of pupils who are
24 deaf and pupils who are blind cannot be adequately remediated or
25 accommodated in the majority of the cases to allow a passing
26 score; and

27 WHEREAS, Accommodations or modifications to the
28 examination are not suitable for many pupils with learning
29 disabilities; and

30 WHEREAS, For the past two years, the State of California has
31 rigorously implemented higher standards for all pupils; and

32 WHEREAS, The IDEA requires the state or local educational
33 agency, as appropriate, to develop guidelines for the participation
34 of pupils with disabilities in alternate assessments for those pupils
35 who cannot participate in the assessment programs and to develop
36 and conduct those alternate assessments beginning not later than
37 July 1, 2000; and

38 WHEREAS, The State of California does not have an alternate
39 assessment to the high school exit examination; and



1 WHEREAS, If the examination is delayed, more pupils will be
2 exposed to standards-based instruction, thus, maximizing their
3 preparation for the examination; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *concurring*, That the Legislature hereby urges the State Board of
6 Education to delay the high school exit examination until the
7 above issues are resolved regarding appropriate testing methods
8 for pupils with disabilities; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby encourages the State
10 Department of Education to develop, and the State Board of
11 Education to adopt, guidelines regarding the method and content
12 of alternate assessments to the high school exit examination for
13 pupils with disabilities who cannot participate in the examination
14 and for whom accommodations or modifications are not
15 appropriate; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the State Department of Education, the State
18 Board of Education, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

